(viii) The creation of innovative implementation mechanisms including institutional grievance redressal machinery, Health Ombudspersons and HIV/AIDS Authorities. This will be supported by Special Procedures to be followed in courts, including suppression of identity, speedy trials and proceedings etc.

(ix) Special provisions for those who are disproportionately affected by the epidemic, particularly women, children and young persons and persons in the care and custody of the State who due to social, economic, legal and other factors find themselves more vulnerable to HIV.

Refusal of treatment to HIV victims

669. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that HIV-infected cases are declining every year;

(b) if so, what are the number of HIV-infected cases reported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether international agencies like National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), USAID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations have refused to help HIV infected patients; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not providing drugs and financial aids by these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. Except in a few pockets, by and large there is no decline. The epidemic has stabilized around 0.36% prevalence level during the last 4 years.

(b) The estimated number of HIV infected persons using the new method of estimation are as follows:

Year	Estimated Number
2004	2.44 million
2005	2.4 7 million
2006	2.47 million

(c) and (d) No, Sir. National AIDS Control Programme is a national programme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Adequate funds have been allocated for prevention, care and treatment including procurement of drugs. The programme is implemented by State AIDS Control Societies. International organizations and private foundations such as USAID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are supporting NACP-III in high prevalence states. Both these organizations provide support for treatment against sexually- transmitted infections and other opportunistic infections. However treatment is provided by the Government of India as a matter of policy.